Technology base of Educational Institutions, Polytechnics and ITIs which together turn out the rest?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir. IT enabled Services are estimated to generate a revenue of Rs. 7100 crore in 2001-02, from Rs. 4100 crore in 2000-01, and continue to maintain a healthy growth rate in the current fiscal year.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government has initiated several measures to ramp up the skilled IT professionals through measures like setting up IIITs, enhanced intakes at Premier Institutions, up-gradation of Regional Engineering Colleges etc.

Cable theft

†2633. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several cases of cable theft come into light day to day;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to take any concrete steps to check the same; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Sir, theft of cables do take place. The vulnerable points usually are where underground cable becomes accessible such as culverts and manholes. Various steps are being taken to check the theft of cable; including laying of cables in pipes on culverts, patrolling of major cable routes and locking of manholes. Reduction of length of underground cables by providing

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

more number of remote subscriber units (RSUs) etc. also reduces chances of theft. Further, coordination with Police Authorities is maintained and FIRs lodged.

Cyber crimes

2634. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Cyber crimes are increasing on a rapid pace;

(b) if so, how many such cases were reported during the last year;

(c) what action is being contemplated against such crimes;

(d) whether Government are planning to impose heavy penalties and imprisonment of the people involved in such Cyber crimes; and

(e) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (e) As applications of Information Technology (IT) is rapidly growing in the country involving every sector of the society, several forms of cyber crimes are coming to notice. Crimes of certain form the rapidly decreasing while some new forms of crimes are being reported. Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000 being in place, provisions already exist to impose appropriate penalties and imprisonment to criminals based on the nature of offence.